Delinquent behaviour of RPF and Railway Staff

744. SHRI DIPANKAR MUKHERJEE: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the news item 'Mananiya Rail Mantri, Kanchenjunga Passenger' naam bodle rakhun "Chorachalan Passenger," appearing in 'Aajkal' dated 19th June, 2000 regarding experience of travel in Kanchenjunga Express from Malda to Sealdah on 5th June, 2000;

(b) if so, whether investigations have been carried out and action taken against the delinquent RPF and Railway staff;

(c) if not, the reasons therefor; and

(d) the action plan to make the journey of passengers in this train trouble-free?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI DIGVIJAY SINGH: (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) An enquiry has been conducted, neither RPF nor GRP escorted this train. It was a Customs operation led by Supdt. Customs, Jangipur, P.O. Raghunathganj, Distt. Murshidabad. He was assisted by members of BSF. No RPF or Railway staff has been found involved, hence the question of taking action against them does not arise.

(c) Does not arise.

(d) Proper watch is being maintained at the originating station and at other sensitive stations where loading of smuggled goods are suspected. The empty parcel vans are being locked to prevent entry and in addition arrangement is being made to provide RPF escort of adequate strength in vulnerable trains to discourage the criminal activities.